



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 26, 2012

MR. JASON SMATHERS
MUCKROCK NEWS
POST OFFICE BOX 55819
BOSTON, MA 02205 5819

FOIPA Request No.: 1176727- 000
Subject: ANONYMOUS (1/20/01-PRESENT)

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Please be advised that it is the FBI's policy to neither confirm nor deny the existence of any records which would tend to indicate or reveal whether an individual or organization is of investigatory interest to the FBI. Acknowledging the FBI's interests invites the risk of circumvention of federal law enforcement efforts. Thus, pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 exemption (b)(7)(E), the FBI neither confirms nor denies the existence of records which would indicate whether an individual or organization is or has ever been of investigatory interest.

It is unnecessary to adjudicate your fee waiver request at this time.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in any correspondence to us for proper identification of your request.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI File Fact Sheet.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", is written over a horizontal line.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure



FBI FILE FACT SHEET

- The primary function of the FBI is law enforcement.
The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States
- **The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920's.**
- **FBI files generally contain reports** of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, major thefts/violent crime, and applicants.
- **The FBI does not issue clearances or nonclearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities.** Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.
- **An identification record or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an FBI "file"** – it is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Record Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records is not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date of birth and place of birth. There is a required fee of \$18 for this service which must be submitted in the form of a money order or certified bank check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm. States.
- **The National Name Check Program (NNCP)** conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to the requesting Federal, State or local agency. For the NNCP, a name is searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable to the individual in question.
- **The Record/Information Dissemination Section/Freedom of Information-Privacy Act (FOIPA)** search for records provides copies of FBI files relevant to a FOIPA request for information. FOIPA provides responsive documents to requestors seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject name, event, activity, business, or event is searched to determine whether there is an investigative file associated with the subject. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the **NNCP** search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.fbi.gov

3-20-2009